

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 2-7, 9, 11-13, and 15 are pending in the application.

The Office Action maintains from previous Office Actions rejection of claims 2-7, 9, 11-13, and 15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yao et al. (US Patent No. 5,938,734) and Ueno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,596).

Claims 3, 4, 5, 12 and 13 are amended, claim 15 is cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice, and new claims 16 and 17 are added, and, thus, claims 2-7, 9, 11-13 and 16-17 remain pending for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added in this Amendment.

REJECTION

The claimed present Invention is characterized in that the transit control server 20 is configured to instruct the stream server 10 and the client 30 to start and end a process and to control in detail the methods of displaying and outputting the content that has been distributed to the client 30 as moving picture and as voice information when the content is to be reproduced by the client 30. Specific unlimiting examples of the control by the control server 20 related to the displaying of the content by the client 30 are:

- (1) specifying a display layout for displaying a plurality of contents (Figs. 8 and 9);
- (2) prohibiting control related to a display window at the client 30 end (Fig. 10);
- (3) permitting control related to a display window at the client 30 end (Fig. 11);
- (4) specifying a display size, a reproduction speed, whether or not to reproduce sound, whether or not to display reproduction time, and whether or not to display a reproduction file name (Figs. 15 and 16);
- (5) specifying whether or not to superimpose a plurality of contents and whether or not to synthesize sounds (Figs. 17 and 18);
- (6) specifying a display size, a display layout, and a sound volume allocation (Figs. 19 and 20);

(7) specifying a display speed (frame rate), a number of display colors, and a sound quality (Figs. 21 and 22); and

(8) specifying a display position, a display size, a reproduction speed (frame rate), a number of display colors, a lightness, a chroma, and whether or not to reproduce sound (Figs. 23 and 24).

The independent claims 3, 12 and 13 are amended along the lines of independent claims 9 and 11. None of the cited references of Ueno and Yao disclose or suggest the claimed present invention's control over a network of a receiving device with respect to the to display methods and sound output methods for reproducing the contents at the receiving device, as recited in the independent claims. The Examiner in page 5 of the Office Action in rejecting independent claim 9 and 11, relies on Ueno's column 12, lines 23 to 34 for disclosing the claimed present invention's, "***controlling over the network according to reproduction instructions*** to the receiving device ***a display method***." However, this Ueno description portion relates to types of video data transferred from a server via a core network and has nothing to do with a over a network control related to display methods and sound output methods as recited in the independent claims. In other words, in contrast to Ueno and Yao, the claimed present invention as recited in independent claims 3, 9, 11, 12, and 13, using claim 3 as an example, provides:

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information distribution/reproduction control apparatus, comprising:

a distribution control unit distributing over a network a content as real-time reproducible stream information to a receiving device;

a reproduction control unit controlling the distribution control unit regarding distribution of the content to the receiving device, and ***controlling over the network*** according to reproduction instructions to the receiving device ***a display method of displaying the stream information of the content to be reproduced in controlling the real-time reproduction of the stream information of the content at the receiving device***; and

a memory unit storing a distribution schedule information of the distribution control unit and the reproduction control unit,

wherein the distribution schedule information comprises information on a time and a date to start and end the distribution of the content, and the reproduction control unit controls the

distribution control unit and the receiving device based on the stored distribution schedule information.

Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, FIGS. 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24. For example, FIGS. 15 and 16 and their descriptions on page 74, line 18 to page 79, line 10, of the present Application.

It is readily apparent that Ueno, column 12, lines 23-24 discloses, "In the present invention, the video data transferred from a server via a core network are classified into two types; an immediate data directly reproduced in a STU via headend, and a temporary stored data temporarily stored in a storage unit of a headend." In Ueno, the STU is a set-top unit. Ueno's description, "reproduced in a STU via headend," relates to transferring types of video data to the STU, and Ueno's is silent on the describing the claimed present invention's, "***a reproduction control unit controlling ... over the network*** according to reproduction instructions to the receiving device ***a display method of displaying the stream information of the content to be reproduced in controlling the real-time reproduction of the stream information of the content at the receiving device***, (e.g., claim 3).

Further, it is readily apparent that Ueno's column 12, lines 23-24 fail to disclose or suggest the claimed present invention's, "***a reproduction control unit controlling over the network ... the receiving device*** regarding ***a display method of the moving picture*** and a ***reproduction method of the voice***, relating to the real-time reproduction of the plurality of stream information of the contents" (e.g., claim 11).

Further in contrast to Yao and Ueno, column 18, lines 43-57 and column 14, lines 11-30 (which is relied upon in page 4 of the Office Action to reject dependent claims 4 and 5), the claimed present invention as recited in dependent claims 4 and 5, provides "said reproduction control unit carries out an identical control to each receiving device and ***prohibits an execution of an external control*** relating to a reproduction at said receiving devices, ***the external control being a control of a display window*** for displaying the stream information of the content to be reproduced" (claim 4) and "***permits an execution of an external control*** relating to a reproduction at said receiving devices, ***the external control being a control of a display window*** for displaying the stream information of the content to be reproduced" (claim 5). In other words, Ueno fails to disclose or suggest the claimed present invention's, "***the external control being a control of a display window*** for displaying the stream information of the

content to be reproduced,” because Ueno, column 18, lines 43-57 and column 14, lines 11-30, which is relied upon in page 4 of the Office Action to reject dependent claims 4 and 5, relate to sufficient transmission rate and upper limits of access demand.

NEW DEPENDENT CLAIMS

In contrast to Yao and Ueno, the claimed present invention as recited in new dependent claims 16 and 17 provides,

16. (NEW) The information distribution/reproduction control apparatus according to claim 3, wherein ***the reproduction control unit*** is configured to ***execute control related to at least one of a display layout, a reproduction speed, an image quality, and whether or not to superimpose the content with another content, as the control of the display method*** of displaying the stream information of the content to be reproduced ***at the receiving device***, the image quality control including at least one of a number of display colors, a lightness, and a chroma.

In other words, it is readily apparent that Yao and Ueno fail to disclose or suggest the claimed present invention's, “controlling ***over the network according to reproduction instruction to the receiving device***, ... control related to at least one of a ***display layout, a reproduction speed***, an ***image quality***, and ***whether or not to superimpose*** the content with another content, ***as the control of the display method ... at the receiving device***” (claim 3 and 16).

17. (NEW) The information distribution/reproduction control apparatus according to claim 3, wherein ***the reproduction control unit*** is configured to ***execute control of sound output*** related to at least one of whether or not to reproduce a sound, whether or not to synthesize a sound with another sound, and specifying a sound volume, ***as the control of the real-time reproduction of the stream information of the content to be reproduced at the receiving device***.

Also, it is readily apparent that Yao and Ueno fail to disclose or suggest the claimed present invention's, “controlling ***over the network according to reproduction instruction to the receiving device***, ... ***sound output*** related to at least one of ***whether or not to reproduce a sound, whether or not to synthesize a sound with another sound, and specifying a sound volume***” (claims 3 and 17).

Support for the new claims can be found, for example, in FIGS. 15 and 16, and page 74,

line 18 to page 79, line 10, of the present Application, disclosing examples of client control information J4 in FIG. 16, which comprise "image," "display size," "voice," reproduction speed," "sound volume," etc. Further, FIG. 24 of the present Application also shows reproduction information, for each first and second stream information, such as "display size," "frame rate," "number of colors," "value," "chroma," "presence or absence of voice reproduction," etc. See also, FIG. 8 (specifying "display layout" - new claim 16); FIGS. 17-18 (whether "synthesize sounds" - new claim 17) and FIGS. 19-22 of the present Application.

In view of the claim amendments and remarks withdrawal of the rejection of pending claims and allowance of pending claims is respectfully requested.

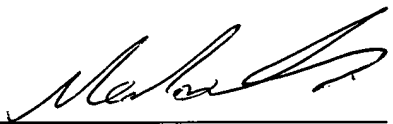
CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
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